

CARSHALTON ATHLETIC 2, WYCOMBE WANDERERS 3

CARSHALTON, who ended a disastrous spell by winning their first Berger Isthmian League game of the season at Wycombe recently, were given a taste of their own medicine in the return clash at Colston Avenue on Saturday.

For Wycombe broke a dismal run of five Premier Division matches without success by outplaying Robins to earn revenge and a badly-needed victory which was much more decisive than the scoreline suggests.

The result flattered Carshalton because quite apart from the fact they twice trailed by two goals and cut the deficit to one only in second half injury time, Wycombe were quite simply a superior side.

Their back division was capably marshalled by Alan Phillips and Steve Hardwick, the midfield won a decisive advantage in the second half on the strength of a telling performance by Howard Kennedy, and the visitors, crucially, rediscovered their scoring touch in the final 45 minutes.

Carshalton, who had injury worries over four key men before the game, managed to

the second half, with Wycombe starting a goal rush by taking the lead after 55 minutes.

They won a free kick deep inside Carshalton's half and Terry Scott's dead-ball effort provided chances for Stuart Atkins and Phillips which were both blocked, before the ball ran out to Steve Long, who fired home a low drive from the right.

It was the first goal Wycombe had netted in the league for 360 minutes, but they added another in the 68th minute.

Kennedy hit a long cross and again there were two attempts, by Scott and Long, before Phillips finished at point-blank range.

Carshalton hit back within 60 seconds, for a corner by Kelly was headed firmly home by Steve Bangs, who has now scored with his head in the last four games.

But Wycombe dashed any hopes of Robins getting fully back into contention ten minutes later. Kennedy was again the inspiration with a penetrating run and a lovely cross which Scott headed inside the far post.

Priestly blotted Wycombe's effort by getting the yellow card after bringing down Bangs.

And at the end of an eventful half, Carolan headed off the line from Mick Hollifield before Robins won a last-gasp corner from which Phil Dade headed down and Dennis squeezed a drive inside the near post.

Carshalton Ath. — Finch, Dade, Bangs, Coombe, Gaydon, Kember, Burke, Dennis, Reynolds, Walker, Kelly. Sub. Carolan for Walker.

Wycombe. — Maskell, Birdseye, Davies, Hardwick, Phillips, Priestly, Atkins, Hollifield, Long, Kennedy, Scott. Sub. Evans for Atkins.

By GRAHAM GRIFFITHS

get all but one fit, only to be landed with another problem when a mere six minutes had elapsed.

Striker Alan Walker habbled off with a pulled thigh muscle after going for a high kick, and in the subsequent reshuffle, Mike Kelly moved forward, Graham Dennis hovered between attack and the middle, while substitute Pat Carolan adopted a purely midfield role.

Despite a useful first half display by Carolan, Robins could not get the midfield working effectively. And although they plugged away gamely and pulled back to 1-2 down at one stage, Wycombe swiftly struck again to push the match beyond their reach. Robins's final goal was pure consolation.

Yet although the Bucks club gained territorial advantage in the first period, they could not produce the finish to match some slick approach work.

However, all that changed in